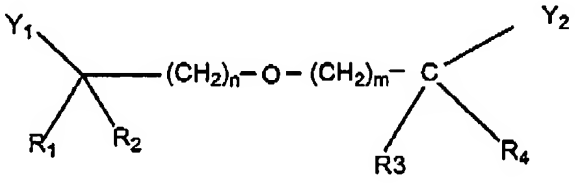
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the current application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 – 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (original): A method for reducing systemic inflammation comprising administering to a mammal, in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



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wherein

n and m independently are integers from 2 to 9;

R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 independently are C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, and R_1 and R_2 together with the carbon to which they are attached, and R_3 and R_4 together with the carbon to which they are attached, independently can complete a carbocyclic ring having from 3 to 6 carbons;

Y_1 and Y_2 independently are COOH, CHO, tetrazole, and $COOR_5$ where R_5 is C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;

and where the alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl groups may be substituted with one or two groups selected from halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, and phenyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

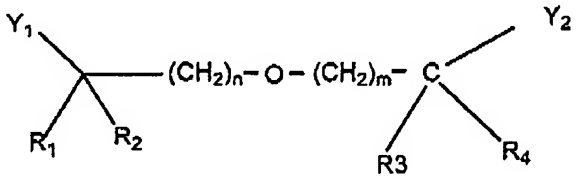
Claim 18 (original): A method according to Claim 17 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 19 (original): A method according to Claim 18 wherein the compound inhibits proinflammatory cytokine induced CRP production.

Claim 20 (original): The method according to Claim 17 wherein the compound is 6,6'-oxybis(2,2-dimethylhexanoic acid) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 21 (original): A method according to Claim 20 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 22 (original): A method for reducing systemic inflammation comprising administering to a mammal, in need thereof, an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula:



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wherein

n and m independently are integers from 2 to 9;

R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 independently are C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, and R_1 and R_2 together with the carbon to which they are attached, and R_3 and R_4 together with the carbon to which they are attached, independently can complete a carbocyclic ring having from 3 to 6 carbons;

Y_1 and Y_2 independently are COOH, CHO, tetrazole, and $COOR_5$ where R_5 is C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;

and where the alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl groups may be substituted with one or two groups selected from halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, and phenyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier, or excipient.

Claim 23 (original): A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 24 (original): A method according to Claim 23 wherein the compound inhibits proinflammatory cytokine induced CRP production.

Claim 25 (original): A method according to Claim 22 wherein the compound is 6,6'-oxybis(2,2-dimethylhexanoic acid) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 26 (original): A method according to Claim 25 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claims 27-36 (canceled).